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SEP 17 2004

In re Application of :
TREMAINE, JOHN M. :
Application No. 10/807,727 :
Filed: March 24, 2004 :
Attorney Docket No.: 396-103 : DECISION ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), filed March 24, 2004, to make the above-identified application special.

The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.), Section 708.02, Item II: Infringement.

A grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d), M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section II, must be accompanied by the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(I) and a statement by the applicant, assignee, or an attorney/agent registered to practice before the Office alleging:

- (A) That there is an infringing device or product actually on the market or method in use;
- (B) That a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device, product, or method with the claims of the application has been made, and that, in his or her opinion, some of the claims are unquestionably infringed; and
- (C) That he or she has good knowledge of the pertinent prior art.

Applicant must provide one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record.

The petition satisfies the above-listed requirements for special status.

Accordingly, the petition is **granted**.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

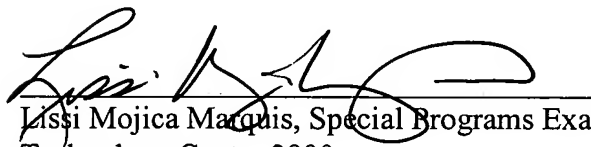
If the examiner can make this application special without prejudice to any possible interfering applications, and he/she should make a rigid search for such, he/she is authorized to do so for the next action. Should the application be rejected, the application will not be considered special for the subsequent action unless the applicant promptly makes a bona fide effort to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to have an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

If the examiner finds any interfering application for the same subject matter, he/she should consider such application simultaneously with this application and should state in the official letter of such application that he/she is taking it out of its turn because of possible interference.

Should an appeal be taken in this application or should this application becomes involved in an interference, consideration of the appeal and the interference will be expedited by all Patent and Trademark Office officials concerned, contingent likewise upon diligent prosecution by the applicant.

After allowance, this application will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. § 1309.

Inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to Lissi Mojica Marquis at (571) 272-1596.


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